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and the customer number as: 022879.

A request for corrected filing receipt is attached.

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Huan Huu Tran for having allowed claims 8, 9, 10 through 15, and 16 through 20 — and also for having indicated that claims 21 and 22 would be allowable upon resolution of Section 112 problems set forth in the Official Action. Applicants also thank the Examiner for having pointed out the failure of antecedent for "the source" in claims 1 and 21, and regret the inconvenience that has resulted.

Applicants apologize for the typographical error leading to the antecedent issue; and have corrected that matter in the accompanying newly amended version of claim 21. Discussion of another Section 112 point raised in the Official Action appears below.

Section 112 rejections

In the Official Action at bottom of page 2 it is said that (emphasis added):

"claims 1 and 21 appear to be misdescriptive regarding the limitation 'respective transmission distances from the source to the sensor' (claim 1 at line 14; claim 21 at line 18). First of all, 'the source' lacks antecedent basis. Secondly, it is understood that the transmission distances should be from the platen or such medium to the sensor as recited at line 10 of claim 1 or at line 13 of claim 21."

The antecedent basis has now been provided in claim 21, through amendment.

As to the transmission distances, however, the Applicants respectfully note that the above-quoted comment in the Action arises from a misunderstanding. It is true that the ultimate objective is to find the spacing "from the platen or such medium to the sensor".

Unfortunately there is no way to find this spacing directly, by the present invention. That is because the platen or printing medium do not emit radiation; hence there is no physical way to transmit only "from the platen or such medium to the sensor".

Instead it is necessary to direct light from the source to the sensor — via reflection at the platen. Exactly this relationship, in fact, is stated explicitly, just a few lines later in the claim.

Section 102 rejection

In the Official Action it is further said that claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are anticipated by Nakamura. Although the Action kindly indicates that claims 3, 6 and 7 would be allowable if suitably rewritten, the Applicants prefer to refocus claims 1 through 6 on the subject matter as previously claimed in a corresponding application abroad.

Accordingly claims 1 through 6 have now been completely rewritten. Applicants respectfully note that the subject matter of these claims, as amended, is related to that of original claims 16 through 20 — which now have been allowed.

It is therefore believed that these claims 1 through 6, too, are in condition for allowance. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice.

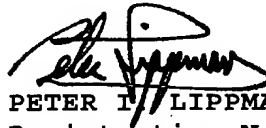
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's favorable reconsideration and allowance of all the claims now standing in this case.

It is respectfully requested that, should there appear any further obstacle to allowance of the claims herein, the

Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to try to resolve the obstacle.

Respectfully submitted,



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